

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 /063 W

----- 015046

R 161441Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1746

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CH, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN TREATMENT OF MAO'S DEATH

1. BULGARIAN PRESS SEPT 10 CARRIED VERY BRIEF ITEM
DATELINED BTA PEKING ANNOUNCING DEATH OF "82-YEAR-OLD
MAO TSE-TUNG", WITH NO OTHER TITLES OR DETAILS GIVEN.
PARTY NEWSPAPER RABOTNICHESKO DELO (RD) SAME DAY
CARRIED TASS REPORT THAT CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD
SENT CONDOLENCES.

2. NEXT DAY, SEPT 11, RD CARRIED TERSE ANNOUNCEMENT
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF BCP HAD SENT CONDOLENCES. SPATE
OF ARTICLES ON THE "CHINA AFTER MAO" THEME HAVE SINCE
APPEARED IN SEVERAL PAPERS, ALL OF THEM BITINGLY
ANTI-MAO, TOGETHER WITH TASS AND NOVOSTI PICK-UPS.
BULGARIAN PRESS HAS YET TO REPORT PRC REFUSAL OF
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PARTY CONDOLENCES.

3. CONDOLENCE BOOK AT CHINESE EMBASSY WAS SIGNED
SEPT 13 BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND POLITBURO MEMBER
TANO TSOLOV, FOREIGN MINISTER (AND CANDIDATE PB
MEMBER) PETUR MLADENOV, FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN OF
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (AND CC MEMBER) MILKO TARABANOV,
AND VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NIKOLAI MINCHEV.

4. CHARGE SIGNED BOOK SEPT 15.

5. COMMENT: BULGARIANS SIGNING CONDOLENCE BOOK ARE
AT SAME LEVEL AS SOVIET SIGNERS (MOSCOW 14381). DESPITE
THIS PARITY, IN THE BULGARIAN CONTEXT SIGNERS ARE
LOW LEVEL AND, ALONG WITH PRESS COMMENTARY, INDICATE
NO FRIENDLY GESTURES ARE BEING MADE HERE--BY PROXY
OR AS PRINCIPALS. ONE SOURCE WITHIN MFA HAS SAID
BALANCE OF POWER IN PEKING REMAINS WITH "ULTRA-LEFT"
AND MFA EXPECTS NO EASING OF TENSIONS IN IMMEDIATE
FUTURE. HOWEVER, MFA SPECULATES REGIONAL MILITARY
COMMANDERS MAY SOON GET RESTIVE, THAT POSITION OF
CHANG CHUN-CHIAO MAY BE KEY AND THAT IN ANY CASE
PERIOD OF CONFUSION AND INSTABILITY INEVITABLE.

FELDMAN

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